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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

FEBRUARY, 1985

RELEASE DATE:
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LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1985				REVISED JANUARY 1985				REVISED FEBRUARY 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,910.1	1,688.2	221.9	11.6	1,916.1	1,696.9	219.2	11.4	1,910.1	1,700.0	210.1	11.0
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	61.8	55.9	5.9	9.6	61.8	56.0	5.8	9.4	61.2	55.8	5.4	8.9
Baton Rouge 2/	249.2	225.3	23.9	9.6	252.1	228.3	23.8	9.5	242.7	221.1	21.6	8.9
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	84.2	74.7	9.5	11.3	85.2	75.5	9.7	11.3	84.6	74.3	10.3	12.2
Lafayette 4/	108.5	99.2	9.3	8.6	108.6	99.3	9.3	8.5	111.2	101.2	10.0	9.0
Lake Charles 5/	75.4	63.7	11.7	15.5	76.4	64.6	11.8	15.5	77.5	65.5	12.0	15.5
Monroe 6/	59.8	53.4	6.4	10.7	60.3	54.0	6.3	10.4	62.6	56.2	6.4	10.2
New Orleans 7/	564.8	501.6	63.2	11.2	570.3	506.7	63.6	11.2	567.7	512.6	55.1	9.7
Shreveport 8/	159.3	145.4	13.9	8.7	160.4	146.5	13.9	8.7	156.9	142.6	14.3	9.1

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,582,100 for February, a decrease of 5,700 below January's level but 13,800 above the February a year ago figure. A large portion of the decrease in the state's nonmanufacturing employment occurred in the construction and trade sectors. Lower payroll levels in nondurable goods were largely responsible for the decrease in manufacturing.

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Employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, estimated at 85,700, fell by 300 worker's from January's figure. Employment in the lumber and wood products industry was up as a result of increased production of millwork, plywood and structural members and certain miscellaneous wood products. Less need for glass and glassware and for concrete, gypsum and plaster products primarily accounted for the decrease in stone, clay and glass products employment. Primary metal industries employment slipped below last month's level as a decrease occurred in the manufacturing of nonferrous metal castings and iron and steel foundries experienced a downturn in business. Fabricated metal products employment was down as cutbacks occurred in the production of fabricated structural metal products and certain miscellaneous fabricated metal products. Less business for firms that manufacture electric lighting and wiring equipment, communications equipment, and miscellaneous electrical equipment and supplies was largely responsible for payroll cutbacks in the electrical and electronic equipment industry. An increase in business for ship and boat building and repairing firms was responsible for the gain in transportation equipment.

Estimated employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing for February amounted to 93,400, a decrease of 1,900 below last month's level and 4,500 lower than February a year ago. Seasonal decreases in vegetable canning and the canning and packaging of seafood, along with a labor dispute in the sugar refining segment, accounted for the decline in food and kindred products employment. The lower employment level in apparel and other textile products resulted from decreased output of men's and boy's suits and coats and men's and boy's furnishings. Employment was also down in paper and allied products, printing and publishing, chemicals and allied products, and petroleum and coal products.

Louisiana's employment in nonmanufacturing industries during February was 1,403,000, a decrease of 3,500 from the January figure of 1,406,500. Mining employment fell below the previous month's level as a result of curtailment in production of crude petroleum and natural gas. Construction employment was down for the current month due in large part to decreased activity in heavy construction. Less activity at the state's ports contributed to the decline in transportation and public utilities. A decrease in trade was centered in the retail segment as department stores, apparel stores, and variety and discount outlets continued cutting payrolls after the holiday season. An employment upturn at credit agencies other than banks was significant in the upturn of finance, insurance and real estate employment. Most segments of services experienced employment gains for the current month, resulting in an increase in services employment. Each sector of government showed higher employment this month, with an upturn in state education employment being especially significant.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 126,900 production workers in manufacturing increased from $423.54 in January to $424.13 in February, an increase of $0.59 and an increase of $7.96 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were six cents lower in February than last month, but $0.24 more than February of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.5 for the current month, up by 0.3 hours from January's figure.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for February amounted to 221,900, an increase of 2,700 from the January level of 219,200. The unemployment rate for February was 11.6 percent compared to 11.4 percent in January and 11.0 percent in February of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for February was 7.8 percent compared to 8.0 percent in January and 8.4 percent in February of last year. Louisiana's civilian labor force moved from 1,916,100 in January to 1,910,000 in February, a drop of 6,000. Total employment decreased from 1,696,900 last month to 1,688,200 in February, a decrease of 8,700.

The unemployment rate for the state is expected to undergo a decrease during the upcoming months. Certain segments of nonmanufacturing, in particular construction, trade and services, should move upward in the next few months. Manufacturing employment may go up in the next month or two.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Quachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change from Jan. 1985	Net Change from Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,582.1	1,587.8	1,568.3	- 5.7	+ 13.8
MINING	80.1	81.4	80.6	- 1.3	- 0.5
Oil and Gas Extraction	77.1	78.4	77.4	- 1.3	- 0.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.0	3.0	3.2	0	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	106.1	110.2	113.3	- 4.1	- 7.2
MANUFACTURING	179.1	181.3	176.7	- 2.2	+ 2.4
Durable Goods	85.7	86.0	78.8	- 0.3	+ 6.9
Lumber and Wood Products	13.4	13.3	13.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Furniture and Fixtures	1.0	1.0	0.8	0	+ 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.9	8.1	7.7	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	3.7	3.8	3.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	12.5	12.7	12.5	- 0.2	0
Machinery, Except Electrical	10.3	10.3	9.6	0	+ 0.7
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	11.3	11.4	8.7	- 0.1	+ 2.6
Transportation Equipment	23.1	22.9	20.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.3	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	93.4	95.3	97.9	- 1.9	- 4.5
Food & Kindred Products	19.0	20.3	20.9	- 1.3	- 1.9
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.2	9.4	9.1	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	11.2	11.3	11.8	- 0.1	- 0.6
Printing & Publishing	10.2	10.3	10.0	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	28.3	28.4	29.4	- 0.1	- 1.1
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.8	11.9	13.1	- 0.1	- 1.3
Petroleum Refining	10.9	11.0	12.1	- 0.1	- 1.2
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	117.5	118.3	116.8	- 0.8	+ 0.7
Railroad Transportation	7.4	7.4	7.1	0	+ 0.3
Transportation, ex. Railroads	68.3	68.9	67.1	- 0.6	+ 1.2
Communication & Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Ser.	41.8	42.0	42.6	- 0.2	- 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	377.7	381.2	370.8	- 3.5	+ 6.9
Wholesale Trade	94.7	95.5	92.7	- 0.8	+ 2.0
Retail Trade	283.0	285.7	278.1	- 2.7	+ 4.9
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	57.7	59.7	58.0	- 2.0	- 0.3
Food Stores	53.4	53.6	51.2	- 0.2	+ 2.2
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	32.6	32.5	31.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Eating & Drinking Places	85.3	85.7	84.5	- 0.4	+ 0.8
Other Retail Trade	54.0	54.2	53.2	- 0.2	+ 0.8
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.3	83.1	82.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Banking	27.5	27.4	27.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
SERVICES	312.3	311.2	306.7	+ 1.1	+ 5.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.2	21.9	21.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Other Services	290.1	289.3	285.0	+ 0.8	+ 5.1
GOVERNMENT	326.0	321.1	321.0	+ 4.9	+ 5.0
Federal	34.3	32.6	34.5	+ 1.7	- 0.2
State and Local	291.7	288.5	286.5	+ 3.2	+ 5.2
State	100.6	98.3	105.5	+ 2.3	- 4.9
Local	191.1	190.2	181.0	+ 0.9	+ 10.1

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$424.13	$423.54	$416.17	41.5	41.2	41.7	$10.22	$10.28	$9.98
Durable Goods	391.68	394.97	370.55	40.8	41.1	40.9	9.60	9.61	9.06
Lumber & Wood Products	310.08	313.63	270.05	39.3	39.6	38.8	7.89	7.92	6.96
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	372.69	369.15	375.33	41.0	40.3	42.7	9.09	9.16	8.79
Fabricated Metal Products	392.81	356.90	365.31	41.7	38.5	40.1	9.42	9.27	9.11
Machinery, ex. Electrical	393.21	388.88	361.92	39.4	39.4	39.0	9.98	9.87	9.28
Electric & Electronic Equip.	428.67	437.64	457.76	41.1	42.0	44.1	10.43	10.42	10.38
Transportation Equipment	447.29	473.80	435.25	40.7	42.8	41.1	10.99	11.07	10.59
Nondurable Goods	459.38	454.57	457.26	42.3	41.4	42.3	10.86	10.98	10.81
Food & Kindred Products	285.12	270.65	271.52	39.6	37.8	37.4	7.20	7.16	7.26
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	220.75	200.94	197.66	43.8	37.7	42.6	5.04	5.33	4.64
Paper & Allied Products	540.60	528.20	504.06	42.5	42.7	41.9	12.72	12.37	12.03
Printing & Publishing	362.22	364.17	345.33	39.5	39.2	38.2	9.17	9.29	9.04
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	631.62	640.77	639.62	43.5	44.1	43.9	14.52	14.53	14.57
Petroleum & Coal Products	614.68	651.28	657.94	44.0	45.8	49.1	13.97	14.22	13.40
Petroleum Refining	640.64	672.67	672.95	44.8	46.2	49.3	14.30	14.56	13.65
MINING	537.28	537.92	521.66	48.1	47.9	45.8	11.17	11.23	11.39
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	473.62	480.00	457.65	39.7	39.9	39.9	11.93	12.03	11.47
BANKING	243.05	241.94	228.75	37.8	38.1	37.5	6.43	6.35	6.10

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 126,900 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 104,100 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$419.21	$426.59	$415.48	40.7	41.7	41.3	$10.30	$10.23	$10.06
Durable Goods	394.97	397.70	362.10	41.1	41.6	40.1	9.61	9.56	9.03
Lumber & Wood Products	311.66	306.53	269.66	39.5	38.9	38.8	7.89	7.88	6.95
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	360.59	365.98	339.69	39.8	40.8	39.0	9.06	8.97	8.71
Fabricated Metal Products	359.14	404.66	347.65	38.7	43.7	38.8	9.28	9.26	8.96
Machinery, ex. Electrical	386.71	392.98	376.51	39.5	40.1	39.8	9.79	9.80	9.46
Electric & Electronic Equip.	437.64	455.82	450.21	42.0	42.6	43.0	10.42	10.70	10.47
Transportation Equipment	478.22	450.69	422.90	43.2	41.5	40.2	11.07	10.86	10.52
Nondurable Goods	445.32	455.20	464.95	40.3	41.8	42.5	11.05	10.89	10.94
Food & Kindred Products	244.04	276.86	278.21	36.1	38.4	37.8	6.76	7.21	7.36
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	192.47	209.20	201.54	33.3	41.1	41.3	5.78	5.09	4.88
Paper & Allied Products	527.54	560.28	530.52	43.1	43.5	43.7	12.24	12.88	12.14
Printing & Publishing	366.13	366.56	324.35	39.2	39.8	36.9	9.34	9.21	8.79
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	629.26	633.01	640.69	43.1	42.8	44.4	14.60	14.79	14.43
Petroleum & Coal Products	650.71	631.40	675.66	45.6	45.1	48.4	14.27	14.00	13.96
Petroleum Refining	674.52	650.58	692.10	46.2	45.4	48.5	14.60	14.23	14.27
MINING	549.65	531.83	539.49	48.3	47.4	47.7	11.38	11.22	11.31
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	469.66	489.62	468.99	39.6	40.1	40.5	11.86	12.21	11.58
BANKING	241.94	242.61	232.85	38.1	40.1	39.6	6.35	6.05	5.88

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 129,200 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 105,400 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 02 85				REVISED 01 85			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	23,700	20,750	2,950	12.5	23,400	20,575	2,825	12.1
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	6,275	4,925	1,350	21.4	6,250	4,900	1,350	21.6
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	10,850	8,900	1,950	17.9	10,650	8,700	1,950	18.4
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	12,600	9,725	2,875	22.8	12,350	9,575	2,775	22.4
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	12,425	10,750	1,675	13.5	12,425	10,750	1,675	13.4
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	7,125	6,325	800	11.2	7,125	6,350	775	10.9
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	5,075	4,375	700	13.9	4,875	4,300	575	12.0
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,500	4,100	400	8.9	4,500	4,075	425	9.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	5,975	4,950	1,025	17.2	5,775	4,850	925	15.9
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,250	6,625	625	8.8	7,225	6,575	650	8.9
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,325	8,300	2,025	19.5	9,900	8,250	1,650	16.7
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	11,725	10,425	1,300	11.1	11,600	10,300	1,300	11.2
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	5,250	4,025	1,225	23.3	5,000	3,800	1,200	23.9
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	7,800	6,900	900	11.4	7,800	6,900	900	11.6
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,650	11,425	2,225	16.3	13,275	11,250	2,025	15.3
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,800	7,025	1,775	20.2	8,475	6,875	1,600	18.9
COLFAX (GRANT)	3,925	3,075	850	21.8	3,800	3,025	775	20.6
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	34,325	30,200	4,125	12.0	34,475	30,250	4,225	12.2
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	15,575	13,500	2,075	13.4	15,625	13,500	2,125	13.6
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,400	5,750	650	10.2	6,375	5,750	625	9.7
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,700	10,900	1,800	14.2	12,550	10,775	1,775	14.2
JENA (LASALLE)	6,375	5,700	675	10.7	6,375	5,725	650	10.3
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	21,100	20,100	1,000	4.7	21,150	20,125	1,025	4.9
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,600	4,525	1,075	19.0	5,400	4,375	1,025	19.1
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,425	10,450	1,975	15.9	12,225	10,375	1,850	15.2
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,450	15,550	1,900	10.9	17,300	15,475	1,825	10.5
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	13,725	12,575	1,150	8.3	13,725	12,550	1,175	8.6
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	13,000	11,400	1,600	12.3	12,800	11,175	1,625	12.7
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,275	3,775	500	11.5	4,175	3,725	450	10.7
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	9,025	7,525	1,500	16.5	8,750	7,425	1,325	15.1
MANY (SABINE)	8,275	7,375	900	10.9	8,175	7,325	850	10.5
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	4,200	3,725	475	11.0	4,050	3,625	425	10.7
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	10,975	9,100	1,875	17.1	10,925	9,050	1,875	17.2
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	34,425	27,900	6,525	18.9	33,900	27,750	6,150	18.2
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	32,500	28,050	4,450	13.7	32,325	28,050	4,275	13.3
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	36,225	30,000	6,225	17.2	35,750	29,875	5,875	16.5
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,225	2,775	450	14.2	3,075	2,650	425	13.6
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	7,400	6,375	1,025	13.9	7,350	6,350	1,000	13.6
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	24,375	21,225	3,150	12.9	24,050	21,000	3,050	12.7
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	12,275	10,875	1,400	11.5	12,475	10,950	1,525	12.2
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	14,800	12,375	2,425	16.3	14,725	12,375	2,350	16.0
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	15,350	13,125	2,225	14.5	15,300	13,125	2,175	14.2
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,575	3,250	1,325	29.2	4,350	3,325	1,025	23.5
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	3,775	3,400	375	10.0	3,725	3,350	375	10.3
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,500	4,900	600	10.9	5,475	4,925	550	10.1

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.2	45.1	43.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.7
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.7	2.7	2.5	0	+ 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.0	11.1	10.4	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Retail Trade	8.7	8.8	8.1	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	3.6	3.7	3.3	- 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	9.9	9.8	9.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.0	12.9	12.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Federal	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
State and Local	10.5	10.4	10.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0
Local	5.2	5.1	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area during February was 45,200. This estimate is 100 more than the previous month and 1,700 more than February of last year.

Total employment in the manufacturing segments remained unchanged since the previous month. Since February of last year, employment in manufacturing has increased by 100, with the gain being in other durable goods.

Total employment in the nonmanufacturing industries increased by 100 since last month and increased by 1,600 since February of last year. Changes since last month shows a loss in retail trade and gains in services and government. Since last year each major segment had an increase with the exception of mining which remained unchanged.

During the next thirty days total employment should show some gains, with outdoor related employment increasing due to the weather and retail trade will benefit from Easter sales. Due to the latter, there should be a decrease in the number of unemployed.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	216.0	217.5	207.2	- 1.5	+ 8.8
MANUFACTURING	21.2	21.4	21.2	- 0.2	0
Durable Goods	4.1	4.2	3.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	1.0	0.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	17.1	17.2	17.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.3	12.4	12.9	- 0.1	- 0.6
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.1	0.9	0	+ 0.2
MINING	1.2	1.2	1.0	0	+ 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	22.2	23.4	20.1	- 1.2	+ 2.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.9	10.9	10.3	0	+ 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	52.3	52.9	49.8	- 0.6	+ 2.5
Wholesale Trade	11.1	11.1	10.9	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	41.2	41.8	38.9	- 0.6	+ 0.8
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.3	13.3	12.5	0	+ 0.8
SERVICES	40.2	39.5	38.5	+ 0.7	+ 1.7
GOVERNMENT	54.7	54.9	53.8	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Federal	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
State and Local	52.7	52.9	51.8	- 0.2	+ 0.9
State	32.1	32.2	31.7	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Local	20.6	20.7	20.1	- 0.1	+ 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$485.89	$546.74	$494.58	40.9	43.6	42.2	$11.88	$12.54	$11.72
Petro-Chemicals	632.83	715.44	655.04	42.5	46.7	45.3	14.89	15.32	14.46

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 216,000 during February was down 1,500 from the revised January estimate and up 8,800 over the total for last February. Manufacturing was down 200 and nonmanufacturing was down 1,300.

Employment in manufacturing at 21,200 during February, was down 200 from the January revised total. Durable goods were down 100 due to some adjustments in fabricated metal products. Nondurable goods were down 100 due to less business in industrial chemicals.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing at 194,800 during February, was down 1,300 from January's revised total. Mining had no change. Construction was down due to less business in highway and street construction, except elevated highways and in heavy construction. Transportation and public utilities had no change. Department stores and food stores lead all retail trade major groups in a continued seasonal downturn. Finance, insurance and real estate had no change. Services were up due to more business in personnel supply services, nursing and personal care facilities, outpatient care facilities and in legal services. Federal government had no change while state and local government had a small drop.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,600 production workers in all manufacturing industries was $485.89 in February. Average weekly hours were 40.9 and average hourly earnings were $11.88. Petro-chemicals averages were $632.83, 42.5, and $14.89 respectively.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 225,300 during February, down 3,000 from last months revised estimate and up 4,200 over February of last year. Unemployment at 23,900 during February was up 100 over last months revised estimate. February's unemployment rate was 9.6 percent compared to 9.5 percent for last month and 8.9 percent in Febraury of last year. The comparable state unemployment rate for February was 11.6 percent. The local civilian labor force totaled 249,200 during the current period.

Seasonal factors and good weather is expected to produce an employment increase in the coming months.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,200 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 419 applicants in jobs during February.

The consumer price index for January, 1985 for all urban consumers was 316.1 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 312.6 using base period 1967=100.

BATON ROUGE AREA

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$545.49	$509.35	$495.26	43.5	42.2	41.9	$12.54	$12.07	$11.82
Petro-Chemicals	713.91	659.03	666.54	46.6	43.5	46.0	15.32	15.15	14.49

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	62.3	62.6	60.1	- 0.3	+ 2.2
MANUFACTURING	6.3	6.2	5.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Durable Goods	4.6	4.3	3.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.9	1.5	- 0.2	+ 0.2
MINING	8.3	8.5	7.9	- 0.2	+ 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.3	7.2	7.3	+ 0.1	0
Water Transportation	5.0	4.9	4.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.1	15.3	14.7	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.6	11.7	11.1	- 0.1	+ 0.5
Eating & Drinking Places	3.7	3.8	3.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
SERVICES	9.0	9.1	9.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	10.8	10.8	10.6	0	+ 0.2
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
State and Local	10.4	10.4	10.2	0	+ 0.2
State	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	- 0.2
Local	7.7	7.7	7.3	0	+ 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in February tapered off to 62,300, showing a slight decrease of 300 since January. Changes were minor and scattered.

Manufacturing employment totaled 6,300 in February, up 100 from last month. Seasonal downturns in food and kindred products caused the drop in the nondurable goods sector. Offsetting this were increases in fabricated metals, machinery and transportation equipment in the durable goods sector. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment has increased by 1,200.

Nonmanufacturing changes were mainly seasonal in nature. Wholesale trade eased down in durable goods. Retail trade made further seasonal downward adjustments. Mining activity was hampered by winter weather conditions. Services were lowered by a downturn in business services. More favorably, water transportation added workers. Construction held steady on a seasonally reduced level. Government showed no significant change in any segment.

Estimated unemployment in February stood at 9,500, down a slight 200 from January. A decrease in the labor force was mostly responsible. Joblessness currently accounts for 11.3 percent of the labor force compared to 11.3 percent in January and 12.2 percent in February of last year. The unemployment rate of 11.3 percent in February was slightly lower than the state rate of 11.6 percent, but higher than the comparable national rate of 7.8 percent. Beneficiaries of regular unemployment insurance totaled 2,385.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is predicted to exhibit an overall increase. Mining and construction will likely show gains as weather conditions improve. Retail trade will probably push up seasonally. Unemployment is expected to decrease as employment increases.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	97.5	97.0	96.6	+ 0.5	+ 0.9
MANUFACTURING	5.7	5.9	5.9	- 0.2	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.6	3.7	- 0.2	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
MINING	16.6	17.0	16.5	- 0.4	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	5.3	5.3	5.4	0	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.2	7.1	7.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.9	25.9	25.4	0	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	0
Retail Trade	19.2	19.2	18.7	0	+ 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
Food Stores	3.2	3.2	2.9	0	+ 0.3
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	11.4	11.4	11.2	0	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.1	4.1	4.2	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	19.4	19.2	19.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
GOVERNMENT	13.3	12.5	13.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.1
Federal	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
State and Local	12.4	11.6	12.3	+ 0.8	+ 0.1
State	5.2	4.4	5.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.1
Local	7.2	7.2	7.2	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette during February amounted to 97,500, an increase of 500 over the previous month and an increase of 900 over the comparable period a year ago. Nonmanufacturing was responsible for the increase.

Manufacturing showed a decrease of 200 from the previous month and the same amount from February 1984.

Mining showed a decrease of 400 from January of 1985 and a 100 increase from a comparable period a year ago.

Government showed an increase of 800 from the previous month. This was due to students returning to school.

The economy of the area has remained relatively stable. The decrease in drilling activities has contributed to a very slugglish recovery in the oilfield. The outlook at the present time is not that good.

The unemployment rate should remain about the same for the coming months. Construction employment should increase during the coming months because of better weather.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.9	58.6	59.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2
MANUFACTURING	9.1	9.0	9.5	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Durable Goods	0.7	0.8	0.7	- 0.1	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.4	0.5	0.4	- 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.2	8.8	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet Products	7.5	7.3	7.9	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	2.0	1.9	2.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	3.9	3.2	4.6	+ 0.7	- 0.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.4	5.5	4.1	- 1.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.4	14.6	14.1	+ 0.8	+ 1.3
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.2	3.3	+ 0.1	0
Retail Trade	12.1	11.4	10.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.1	2.3	2.4	+ 0.8	+ 0.7
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.2	3.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.7	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.3
SERVICES	10.6	10.7	11.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	10.9	11.0	10.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Federal	0.7	0.6	0.7	+ 0.1	0
State and Local	10.2	10.4	10.0	- 0.2	+ 0.2
State	3.8	3.9	3.7	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	6.4	6.5	6.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Employment on area nonfarm payrolls gained 300 above the January level to the current estimate 58,900. Nonmanufacturing was responsible for most of the gain.

Manufacturing showed a slight gain of 100 from the previous month but showed a 400 loss from February 1984. The decrease was noted in nondurable goods for comparison of February 1984. Wholesale and retail trade showed an increase of 800 from the previous month.

Government noted a slight decrease of 100 from the previous month and a 200 increase from February 1984.

The employment outlook for the Lake Charles area continues to look bleak for the immediate future. There is much optimism at the present time for the location of a Navel base in the area.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	534.0	537.5	533.4	- 3.5	+ 0.6
MANUFACTURING	47.0	48.0	46.8	- 1.0	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	23.8	23.9	23.5	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.5	2.5	2.8	0	- 0.3
Fabricated Metal Products	3.0	3.2	2.9	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	2.9	3.0	2.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Transportation Equipment	13.1	12.9	12.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	8.5	8.3	7.5	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	2.1	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	23.2	24.1	23.3	- 0.9	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	6.5	7.2	7.0	- 0.7	- 0.5
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.9	2.0	1.9	- 0.1	0
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.2	1.1	- 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	3.9	3.8	3.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.6	4.7	4.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.9	4.9	5.0	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
MINING	20.0	20.3	19.0	- 0.3	+ 1.0
CONSTRUCTION	31.9	32.2	35.7	- 0.3	- 3.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	46.9	46.8	47.3	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	15.2	15.1	15.5	+ 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	140.7	142.9	135.4	- 2.2	+ 5.3
Wholesale Trade	35.7	36.2	35.8	- 0.5	- 0.1
Retail Trade	105.0	106.7	99.6	- 1.7	+ 5.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	31.9	31.9	32.7	0	- 0.8
SERVICES	129.3	129.0	128.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.2
GOVERNMENT	86.3	86.4	88.4	- 0.1	- 2.1
Federal	14.7	14.8	14.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
State and Local	71.6	71.6	73.5	0	- 1.9
State	21.4	21.5	22.1	- 0.1	- 0.7
Local	50.2	50.1	51.4	+ 0.1	- 1.2

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$421.46	$427.99	$440.57	40.8	40.8	42.2	$10.33	$10.49	$10.44
Durable Goods	390.61	406.21	423.95	39.1	40.1	41.2	9.99	10.13	10.29
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	456.09	467.20	441.28	41.5	40.0	44.8	10.99	11.68	9.85
Fabricated Metal Products	419.04	366.27	445.84	45.4	41.2	42.3	9.23	8.89	10.54
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	390.25	424.55	382.54	38.6	41.5	37.8	10.11	10.23	10.12
Nondurable Goods	454.12	450.28	458.11	42.6	41.5	43.3	10.66	10.85	10.58
Food & Kindred Products	337.55	330.22	330.44	42.3	38.0	40.2	7.98	8.69	8.22
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	174.99	182.87	191.83	30.7	34.7	36.4	5.70	5.27	5.27
Paper & Allied Products	376.53	405.82	378.61	46.2	46.7	44.7	8.15	8.69	8.47
Printing & Publishing	371.45	371.95	370.19	43.7	43.3	42.6	8.50	8.59	8.69
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	684.94	649.09	680.68	45.3	43.1	44.2	15.12	15.06	15.40

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,800 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	52.3	52.4	53.5	- 0.1	- 1.2
MANUFACTURING	7.1	7.2	7.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.1	5.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.5	3.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
MINING	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.8	2.9	3.0	- 0.1	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.0	16.1	14.4	- 0.1	+ 1.6
Wholesale Trade	4.3	4.3	4.1	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	11.7	11.8	10.3	- 0.1	+ 1.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.1	3.1	2.8	0	+ 0.3
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.8	3.8	2.9	0	+ 0.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.1	4.1	3.9	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	10.6	10.4	10.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.4	4.4	4.4	0	0
GOVERNMENT	8.3	8.3	11.0	0	- 2.7
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	7.7	7.7	10.4	0	- 2.7
State	3.5	3.5	4.9	0	- 1.4
Local	4.2	4.2	5.5	0	- 1.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment, estimated at 52,300, was 100 below the January estimate of 52,400.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,100, was 100 below the January estimate. The loss was in nondurable goods.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 45,200, was unchanged for the month. The sole gain was 200 in services. Construction was down 100. Inclement weather, expected at this time each year, accounted for the loss. Wholesale and retail trade was down a minimal 100. All other segments were unchanged.

Employment should show a slight increase as weather conditions improve over the next 30 to 60 days. Unemployment is expected to decline slightly over the same period.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$422.69	$419.02	$432.00	40.8	40.8	41.3	$10.36	$10.27	$10.46
Durable Goods	396.99	387.68	407.78	40.1	39.6	39.9	9.90	9.79	10.22
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	360.38	347.55	409.92	37.0	35.5	42.7	9.74	9.79	9.60
Fabricated Metal Products	373.80	392.71	411.68	42.0	45.4	40.4	8.90	8.65	10.19
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	431.76	413.60	389.32	42.0	40.0	38.7	10.28	10.34	10.06
Nondurable Goods	447.95	449.59	456.04	41.4	41.9	42.7	10.82	10.73	10.68
Food & Kindred Products	316.78	346.52	345.95	37.4	40.2	40.7	8.47	8.62	8.50
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	176.28	189.36	177.91	34.7	36.0	35.3	5.08	5.26	5.04
Paper & Allied Products	405.82	391.53	388.58	46.7	44.9	47.1	8.69	8.72	8.25
Printing & Publishing	371.95	388.52	323.53	43.3	44.0	39.6	8.59	8.83	8.17
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	649.09	655.08	675.34	43.1	42.1	45.6	15.06	15.56	14.81

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 31,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans LMA in February moved down to 534,000, a level 3,500 below January. Manufacturing was lowered by small decreases in several industries. Nonmanufacturing exhibited seasonal downturns in many segments.

Manufacturing employment totaled 47,000 in February, down 1,000 from last month. Food and kindred products suffered tremendous losses due to the closing of an area sugar refinery, a strike at another and the seasonal downturns in seafood processing. Fabricated metal products, machinery, apparel and other textile products, paper and allied products, and chemical and allied products all exhibited decreases over the month. The only bright spots were increases reported in printing and publishing and additional hiring at area shipyards. Employment in manufacturing increased only by 200 compared to this same time last year.

Retail trade showed further seasonal downward adjustments in almost every industry. Wholesale trade was hurt by a reduction of 500, mostly in durable goods. Construction slowed as weather conditions become unfavorable for outside work. Mining seasonally curtailed activity. Government displayed a minor overall decrease. More favorably, services were boosted by upturns in the hotel-motel industry, personal services, legal services, and amusement services. Transportation and public utilities edged up. Finance, insurance, and real estate showed no overall change.

Area production workers earned an average $421.46 a week in February, down $6.53 from last month and down $19.11 from one year ago. The change was due to a drop of $0.16 in average hourly earnings as average weekly hours remained the same.

Estimated unemployment moved down by 400 since January to a total of 63,200 in February. A decrease in the labor force was mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 11.2 percent of the labor force compared to 11.2 percent in January and 9.7 percent in February of last year. The unemployment rate of 11.2 percent in February was lower than the state rate of 11.6 percent, but higher than the comparable national rate of 7.8 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 17,477. Approximately 46.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; about 29.0 percent were female.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is anticipated to exhibit some overall increase. Construction and mining will benefit from better weather conditions. Retail trade will likely pull back up from the present seasonally reduced level. Transportation is predicted to show a gain. Unemployment is expected to decrease as employment increases.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The estimated nonagricultural wage and salary employment for the Shreveport LMA is 143,100, down from the revised January estimate of 143,500, and 6,400 more than February 1984. Manufacturing employment is unchanged from last month (22,700) and the current estimate is 1,900 above the year ago total. The employment total in nonmanufacturing is estimated at 120,400, down 400 from the revised January estimate.

The reduction in nonmanufacturing employment during the past month occurred primarily in trade with a decline from 34,700 in January to 34,300 for February. An additional employment loss of 300 was equally divided between mining, transportation and public utilities and services. This loss was offset by an increase of 300 in local government during the past month.

The Shreveport labor market area has an estimated 17,600 production workers in manufacturing with average weekly earnings of $428.90. These production workers averaged 41.8 hours per week, compared to 42.1 last month and 44.9 one year ago. The average hourly earnings increased from $10.29 in January to $10.36, up from $9.86 in February 1984.

The civilian labor force in the Shreveport LMA is 159,300, including 145,400 employed and 13,900 unemployed and the unemployment rate is 8.7 percent. The unadjusted national rate for February is 7.8 percent.

The outlook is for a slight increase in total employment in this labor area. Employment gains are expected to occur in construction, trade and services during the next two months. Total unemployment should begin a gradual decline from the current level.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Feb. 1985*	Jan. 1985**	Feb. 1984**	Net Change From Jan. 1985	Net Change From Feb. 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	143.1	143.5	136.7	- 0.4	+ 6.4
MANUFACTURING	22.7	22.7	20.8	0	+ 1.9
Durable Goods	18.3	18.4	16.0	- 0.1	+ 2.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.1
Metals and Machinery	12.5	12.5	10.0	0	+ 2.5
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	10.1	10.1	7.6	0	+ 2.5
Other Durable Goods	5.2	5.3	5.3	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Good	4.4	4.3	4.8	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	1.0	0.9	1.0	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.4	0	- 0.2
MINING	5.0	5.1	5.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	9.1	9.1	8.1	0	+ 1.0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.6	8.7	8.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.3	34.7	32.5	- 0.4	+ 1.8
Wholesale Trade	9.4	9.4	8.9	0	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	24.9	25.3	23.6	- 0.4	+ 1.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.8	7.8	7.7	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	29.9	30.0	28.5	- 0.1	+ 1.4
GOVERNMENT	25.7	25.4	25.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Federal	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	21.4	21.1	21.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.4
State	6.6	6.6	6.7	0	- 0.1
Local	14.8	14.5	14.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.5

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**	Feb. '85*	Jan. '85**	Feb. '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$428.90	$428.06	$430.88	41.8	42.1	44.9	$10.36	$10.29	$9.86
Lumber and Wood Products	217.16	222.19	213.19	39.7	41.3	37.6	5.47	5.35	5.67
Metals and Machinery	417.32	419.00	434.34	41.9	41.9	44.2	9.96	9.91	9.82
Food and Kindred Products	288.86	287.64	270.09	40.4	40.8	39.2	7.15	7.05	6.89
Printing and Publishing	257.44	243.11	248.85	29.9	28.5	30.2	8.61	8.53	8.24
Petroleum and Coal Products	394.88	424.36	346.23	37.5	40.3	40.4	10.53	10.53	8.57

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 17,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84**	Jan. '85*	Dec. '84**	Jan. '84*
All MANUFACTURING	$427.87	$436.96	$412.57	41.5	42.3	41.8	$10.31	$10.33	$9.8
Lumber and Wood Products	222.19	194.05	187.43	41.3	37.9	42.5	5.38	5.12	4.4
Metals and Machinery	414.08	440.79	412.25	41.7	43.3	42.5	9.93	10.18	9.7
Food and Kindred Products	287.64	284.01	269.39	40.8	40.4	39.5	7.05	7.03	6.8
Printing and Publishing	243.11	221.31	243.07	28.5	28.3	28.1	8.53	7.82	8.6
Petroleum and Coal Products	424.36	442.37	366.96	40.3	43.2	41.7	10.53	10.24	8.8

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 17,800 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.